made at the Convention call for greater support for the development and use of non-conventional energy sources and increased financial allocations for this purpose. Certain other suggestions have also been made including strengthening of policies to accelerate the programmes.

The suggestions made at the Convention have just been received from the Society and are being looked into.

Import of junk DMT plant by M|s Bombay Dyeing

*192. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Navbharat Times of 14th October, 1986 that a licence has recently been issued to M/s Bombay Dyeing for importing a junk DMT plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that actual cost of the plant is much less than the amount for which import has been permitted; if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government propose to hold a judicial enquiry into the whole affair?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The news-item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' on 14th October, 1986 refers to interview given by Shri P. C. Sethi. It is alleged that M/s Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Ltd. imported a second-hand DMT plant which is a junk at a cost of Rs. 60 crores in Foreign Exchange whereas the actual cost was only Rs. 18 crores.

These allegations are not correct. The total foreign exchange approved for the DMT Project of M/s Bombay Dyeing was US $ 25 million. This figure has remained unaltered.

The import of second-hand plant was permitted as per the policy prevalent at the time of imports. The plant has been certified by the Indian Chartered Engineer as well as by a reputed firm of foreign consultants and production has already been started. Hence, it is wrong to term the plant as junk. As the allegations are *prima facie* baseless, the question of judicial enquiry does not arise.

Agreement for oil exploration

*193. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed between India and the Soviet Union for oil exploration; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Under an inter-governmental agreement signed on May 22, 1985, intensive integrated exploration of hydrocarbons is being taken up in two mutually agreed onshore areas in Cambay and Cauvery basins with the help of Soviet equipment and specialists. The Soviet Union has extended a long term Rouble Credit for the execution of these projects.

Haldia Petro-chemicals Project

*194. SHRI RAM KRISHNA MAZUMDER:

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answers to Starred Question 301 and Unstarred Question 660 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 1986 and 28th July. 1986, respectively, and state:

(a) whether the proposal for foreign collaboration for Haldia Petro-chemicals project has since been cleared